



# NEWS RELEASE

Lt. Col. John Whitford, Director of Communications, Connecticut National Guard  
OFFICE: 860.524.4857 CELL: 860.883.5336 FAX: 860.524.4902  
EMAIL: [JOHN.WHITFORD@US.ARMY.MIL](mailto:JOHN.WHITFORD@US.ARMY.MIL)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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March 21, 2006

## **THE CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE SPECIAL TRAINING FOR CONNECTICUT EDUCATORS**

HARTFORD, Conn., - The Connecticut National Guard in conjunction with the Department of Education will hold a special training conference to help educators recognize and deal with issues and problems facing the children of deployed servicemen and women.

The two day conference will take place on April 11-12, 2006, at the Crowne Plaza in Hartford from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) will conduct the conference.

“The Connecticut National Guard along with the Reserve have mobilized and deployed thousands of servicemen and women in support of the Global War on Terror as well as disaster relief efforts to Louisiana and Mississippi in the wake of Hurricane Katrina,” said Maj. Gen. Thad Martin, Adjutant General and Commander of the Connecticut National Guard. “We greatly appreciate the support from the Department of Education and the MCEC in helping to make this training possible.”

“We want to do everything we can to help the emotional needs of our youngsters,” said Dr. Betty J. Sternberg, commissioner of education.

(MORE)

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“When parents, brothers, sisters or relatives are sent to war, especially from the National Guard or Reserves, students find their lives disrupted. We want to do everything we can to support them and their feelings of fear and uncertainty so that their education continues as smoothly as possible,” added Sternberg.

Dr. Mary Keller, the MCEC Executive Director and her staff have put together training that has been developed by experienced educators and researchers to provide awareness, sensitivities and the skills to help schools support the children of deployed servicemen and women.

The Institute seminar will ‘train the trainers’ so they can take what they learn back to their communities, campuses and colleagues.

The MCEC Guard and Reserve Training Institute is funded by the Department of the Army Community and Family Service Center.

There is no cost to participants except for travel and lodging expense. Teachers, guidance counselors, school nurses and social service professionals who deal with children of military families can access registration information at the MCEC website: [www.MilitaryChild.org](http://www.MilitaryChild.org) (training and workshops) or by calling Linda Neault at 254-953-1923 or the Connecticut Child and Youth Coordinator, Melissa Tetro, of the Connecticut National Guard at (860) 548-3294.

(MORE)

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The participants are eligible to receive a Continuing Education credit or Graduate credit from Texas A&M University.

This event is open to the media.

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